Minorities Commission

1366. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State which have set up Minorities Commissions;

(b) the date upto which the reports of the Central Minorities Commission have been received, inspected and accepted by Government; and

(c) whether the Minorities Commission has made any recommendations on the composition of recruitment of the police force and, if so, whether these are being implemented in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) The following States have set up State Minority Commissions; Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

(b) The National Commission for Minorities have submitted 8 Annual Reports upto the period 31.3.2001. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Annual Reports upto the period 31.3.1996 along with the Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations contained therein, have already been placed in both the Houses of Parliament.

(c) Yes, Sir. In its second as well as third Annual Report, the National Commission for Minorities had recommended relaxation of educational and other qualifications in case of minority communities' candidates for recruitment to Central and State Police Organisations on the lines of the relaxation granted to the SC/ST candidates. The Central Government do not consider it advisable to provide any special relaxation for candidates of minority communities for appointment to Central Para-Military Forces. However, all possible steps are taken to ensure that the candidates belonging to these communities are sufficiently motivated to come forward for appointment to these Organisations. The Government had advised the Central Para-Military Forces to ensure sufficient representation to minorities through making the minority community candidates aware of the employment opportunities/recruitment

programmes and the incentives/prospects available in these Forces. The Recruitment Boards have also been advised to send special information to the minorty community run institutions/organisations with a request to encourage candidates from these communities to apply for the recruitment in the Central Para-Military Forces.

Welfare of senior citizens

1367. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes formulated and enforced for promoting welfare of the senior citizens indicating the welfare schemes;

(b) the problems, as identified by Government and the State Governments being faced by the senior citizens;

(c) the agencies/organizations connected with the welfare of senior citizens; and

(d) the concessions and benefits enjoyed by the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowernment is implementing two grant-in-aid schemes for the welfare of the older persons. The details of these two schemes are as under:

I. Integrated Programme for older persons (Plan Scheme): Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided on receipt of the recommendation of the State Govts./UT administrations to the Non Governmental Organisations for setting up and continuance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units as well as for supporting non-institutional services for the aged.

II. Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of old age homes/Multi service centres for Older persons (Non Plan Scheme): This Central Non Plan Scheme aims at providing one time financial grant for construction of old age homes or services centres for older persons.